
DIGEST

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Sam Jones

HB No. 685

Abstract: Raises minimum age at which certain children may attend BESE-approved adult education programs rather than attending school from 16 to 17 and exempts certain other students enrolled in such programs from school attendance requirements.

Present law requires every parent (or certain other persons) having control or charge of any child from that child's seventh birthday until his 18th birthday to send the child to a public or private day school unless the child graduates from high school prior to his 18th birthday. Specifies that whoever violates present law shall be fined not more than \$250 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes a child who is at least 16 and meets criteria established by BESE to enroll in and attend a BESE-approved adult education program. Provides that individuals responsible for a child who is enrolled in and fulfilling the attendance requirements of such a program shall be considered to be in compliance with present law. Proposed law raises such minimum age from 16 to 17 and additionally exempts the following students who enroll in and attend such programs from school attendance requirements:

- (1) A student who is incarcerated in an adult correctional facility.
- (2) A student who is the parent of a child in his legal care and custody, provided that such enrollment and attendance is court-ordered.

(Amends R.S. 17:221(I))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Provided that a child who is 16 or younger is not required to attend school if:
 - (a) He is in an adult correctional facility and attending an adult education course.
 - (b) He is a parent and under a court order to attend an adult education course.